

Mr. Ken Oldfield
Project Manager
RTA
Grafton NSW
Fax: 66401001

ANNEX 5

Dear Sir,

Please find the following list of attendees as requested re. meeting with you and consultants at Byron Bay Community Centre, 11 May 1999.

Byron Environment and Conservation Organisation (BEACON)

- J Conlan

Byron Environment Centre (BEC)

- H Hartford

Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers

Friends of the Koala

- W Reynolds

Brunswick River Protection Committee

M Murray

Conservation Ecologists Association

- R Kooynam

Conservation of North Ocean Shores (CONOS)

C Daoud, G Opit,

What is of particular concern is that the population of Hairy Quandong (*Eusarcophaga villosus*) adjacent Bonans Road is the largest population in existence, consisting of 11 trees. There are only 4 or 5 other populations, consisting of one or more individuals, few, if any, of which are protected in nature reserves and all attempts to reproduce the species via seeds or cuttings have been failures. The population of Davidson's Plum (*Davidsonia pruriens*) adjacent the Brunswick River is the largest population in NSW, few populations of which exist in nature reserves.

Both of these 2 tree species are endangered by proposed route J, both have not been included in the proposed compensatory habitat, both are prehistoric survivors from the original Goodwaller rainforest that once covered this continent and both species of threatened trees, because of the low surviving number of individuals, are potentially threatened by vandals and fruit pickers.

Therefore we regard it as essential that these 2 small parcels of land are included in the compensatory habitat acquisition for additions to the Brunswick Heads Nature reserve and would ask the RTA to initiate the acquisition of these 2 endangered remnants of our Australian natural heritage for addition to the park system. Of course we know that you are already fully aware of the situation from our discussions with you at the meeting and would expect that you may already be working to protect the 2 populations.

Thanking you for your attention to this matter
yours faithfully,

Gary Opit and Carmel Daoud

Gary Opit Carmel Daoud

Gary Opit and Carmel Daoud
Ecos Environmental Planning Consultants
P. O. Box 380, Mullumbimby, NSW, 2482.
ph. / fax 66 84 3554 26/5/99

Dear Sir,
Mr. Ken Oldfield
The Project Manager
Roads and Traffic Authority
P.O. Box 546
Grafton, 2460

Dear Sir

We are writing to thank you for the special meeting that you arranged for ecologists and environmentalists at the Byron Bay Community Centre on 10-5-99 when you presented us with the reasons for route selection A 2 over route J on the proposed Brunswick Heads to Yelgun section of the new Pacific Highway. We agree with the RTA's conclusions that route A 2 has far less environmental and engineering constraints than proposed route J.

We also agree that the RTA's proposed acquisition of environmentally sensitive land in the locality as compensatory habitat would be a vital step in preserving the last available wildlife corridors and existing habitat for threatened species in this otherwise primarily cleared region. We thank the RTA for their plans to hand this compensatory habitat over to the National Parks and Wildlife Service for addition to the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve.

However we were surprised to find that these proposed compensatory habitat additions to the Brunswick Heads Nature Reserve did not include the 2 small parcels of land that contained the actual highly endangered populations of plants that are the primary environmental constraints for route J. We were amazed to find, in fact, that the proposed new boundary of the nature reserve finished directly adjacent these remnant patches of rainforest / wet sclerophyll forest which are the habitat for these critically endangered species, presently proposed to remain in private ownership.

What is of particular concern is that the population of Hairy Quandong (*Elaeocarpus williamsianus*) adjacent Banana Road is the largest population in existence, consisting of 16 trees. There are only 4 or 5 other populations, consisting of one or more individuals, few, if any, of which are protected in nature reserves and all attempts to reproduce the species via seeds or cuttings have been failures. The population of Davidson's Plum (*Davidsonia pruriens*) adjacent the Brunswick River is the largest population in NSW, few populations of which exist in nature reserves.

Both of these 2 tree species are endangered by proposed route J, both have not been included in the proposed compensatory habitat, both are prehistoric survivors from the original Gondwanaland rainforest that once covered this continent and both species of threatened tree, because of the low surviving number of individuals, are potentially threatened by vandals and fruit pickers.

Therefore we regard it as essential that these 2 small parcels of land are included in the compensatory habitat acquisition for additions to the Brunswick Heads Nature reserve and would ask the RTA to initiate the acquisition of these 2 endangered remnants of our Australian natural heritage for addition to the park system. Of course we know that you are already fully aware of the situation from our discussions with you at the meeting and would expect that you may already be working to protect the 2 populations.

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Gary Opit and Carmel Daoud.

